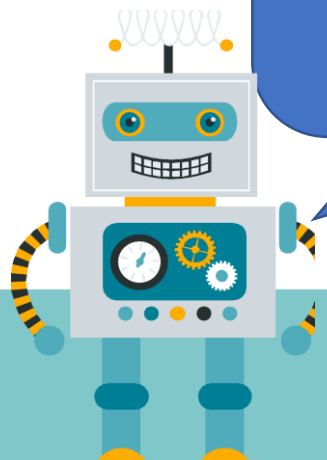
KS2 History

HISTORY OF NURSING

In this session we will:

- learn why Florence Nightingale is considered the founder of modern nursing.
- understand how nursing has changed since Victorian times.
- develop our understanding of chronology.
- compare nursing today with nursing in Victorian times.



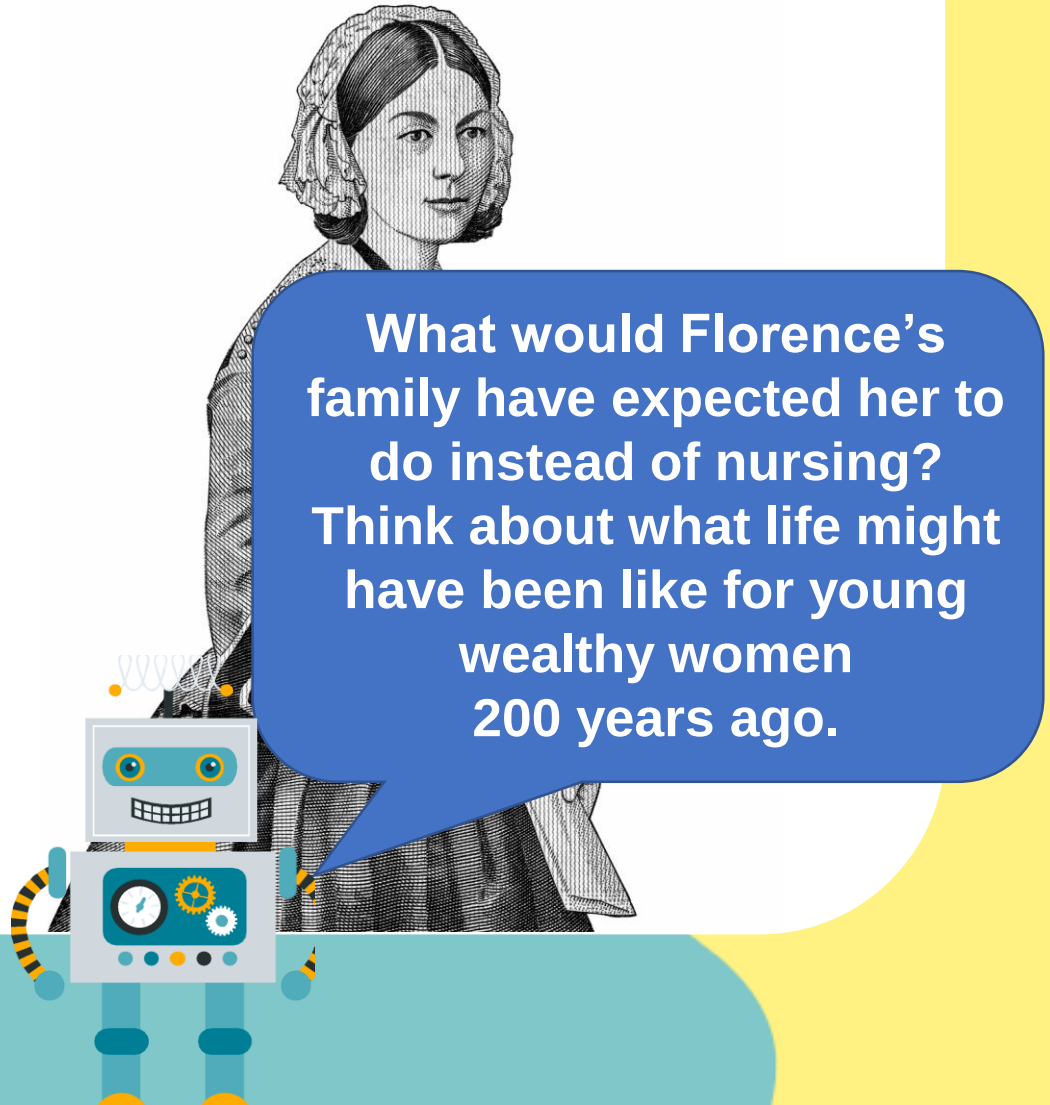
Who is Florence Nightingale?

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was a nurse during Victorian times. She was born on 12th May 1820 into a wealthy family.

She became a nurse in the early 1850s at a time when nursing was not a well respected job. People were rarely treated in hospital and sick people were tended to at home by family members or servants. Nurses would usually be uneducated, dirty and sometimes drunk.

Her family were initially disappointed that she wanted to become a nurse.



The Crimean War

In 1954, Florence Nightingale took thirty-eight nurses to care for soldiers who were injured during the Crimean War. This was a war between Turkey and Russia.

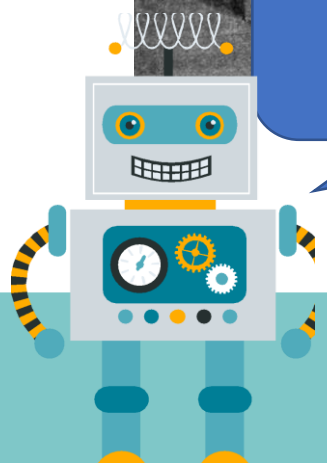
They worked at the Scutari hospital in Turkey. When they arrived, they found the soldiers lying on the floor in an unhygienic hospital with rats and insects crawling everywhere. Many soldiers were dying from infection.

Improving conditions in hospitals

Florence knew that she had to improve the hospital's hygiene practices.

She organised brushes and soap and the whole hospital was cleaned from top to bottom! Then she made sure that the patients were washed and had beds to sleep in and that their bedding was changed regularly.

The injured soldiers had healthy meals prepared for them to help them recover.



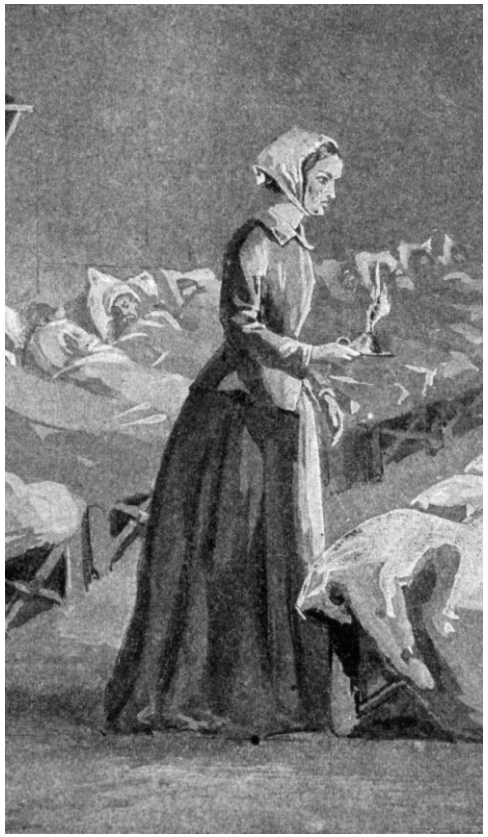
How do you think these changes would affect the injured soldiers?

The Lady of the Lamp

Florence Nightingale cared for her patients day and night.

After dark, she would watch over the injured soldiers carrying a lamp. They began to call her ‘The Lady with the Lamp’.

Because of the improved hygiene and her care, more soldiers survived.



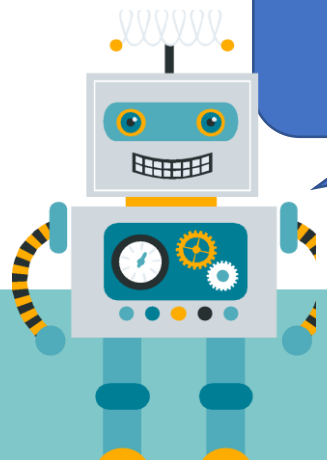
Florence Nightingale's Legacy

Florence continued to write books about nursing and advise hospitals after the war and established the first training school for nurses 'The Nightingale Training School for Nurses' in 1860.

She died at the age of 90 on 13th August 1910.

Her work elevated the status of nurses and it became a more popular profession for women.

She is considered to be the founder of modern nursing as we know it today and she is remembered for her significant work.



Why do you think her work was so important?

How have hospitals changed?

1850s: a ward from Scutari Hospital during the Crimean War at the time Florence Nightingale was nursing there.

2010: a ward from a modern hospital in the UK

Task 1

Comparing hospitals from different periods of time

Look at the images of two hospital wards.

Write a description of each one and then

write a paragraph comparing the two.

What can you see that is the same?

How are they different?

We know that wards have changed.

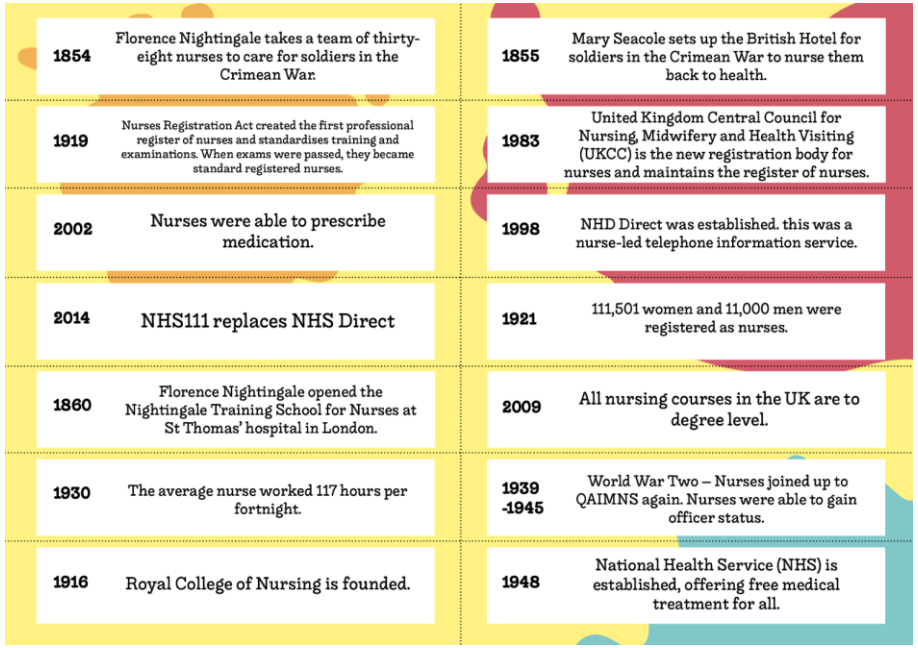
How has nursing has changed since 1850?

Task 2

How has nursing changed over time?

Organise the history of nursing timeline cards so that the events are in chronological order.

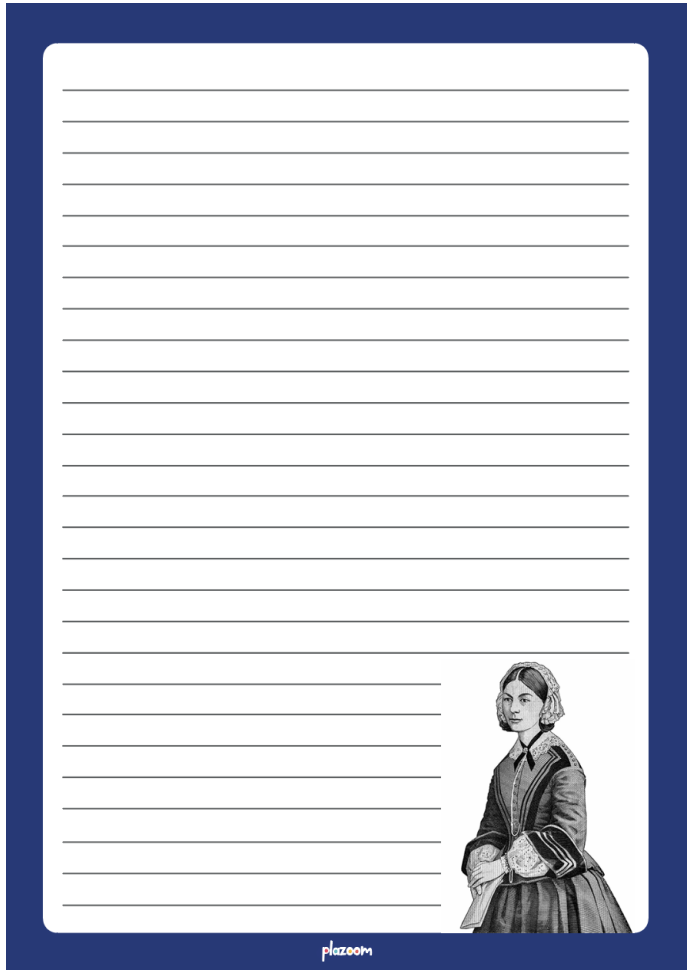
Read the information carefully to find out how nursing has changed.



Task 3

Would you rather?

Would you rather be a nurse in 1850 or 2020?

Write about when you would prefer to be a nurse.

Use information that you have learned to explain **why** you have made that choice.